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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCES OF CHILDREN

1. VARIOUS U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS HAVE REQUESTED INFORMATION ABOUT RUMORS OF CHILDREN DISAPPEARING CURRENTLY IN ARGENTINA.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF SUCH DISAPPEARANCES IN RECENT PAST BUT WOULD RECALL MAY 1978 STATEMENT OF ARGENTINE INFORMATION SERVICE CENTER WHICH CLAIMED THAT TWENTY-TWO CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS (RANGING IN AGE FROM 20 DAYS OLD TO 18 YEARS) HAD DISAPPEARED, IN MOST INSTANCES ABDUCTED WITH THEIR PARENTS DURING THE PERIOD 1974 TO MID-1977. DEPARTMENT ALSO WOULD CITE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (LONDON) REPORT OF MAY 1978 ON "DISAPPEARED OR DETAINED WOMEN AND CHILDREN" IN ARGENTINA.

3. THE UNITED NATIONS HAS PROCLAIMED 1979 THE INTER-
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NATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD AND IS INCREASING FOCUS ON

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THE TREATMENT OF CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD. IN VIEW OF THIS, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS OR ANY POSSIBLE STATISTICS ON DISAPPEARED OR DETAINED CHILDREN IN ARGENTINA. CHRISTOPHER

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